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Muntz Library Musings

Robert R. Muntz Library

Fall 8-1-2008

Fall 2008

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Muntz Library Musings

Fall 2008

Volume 4, Issue 1

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From the Library Director. . .

In previous issues of this newsletter, I've been telling you that we would be again participating in a library quality survey called LibQual. The survey is now available from our homepage. We first participated in this nationally recognized survey in 2005 and this year is only the second time for us to participate. I know that your time is valuable, but please take a few moments to give us your feedback. Your comments give us immediate information regarding areas where things are going right, but most importantly, give us direction in ways we can improve and plan for the future.

When reviewing the comments, many times we're asked why we don't provide a particular resource or service and usually our answer is "But we do!" This means we need to do a better job of getting the word out regard-

ing the wealth of resources and services available. For example, the UT Tyler faculty, staff, and students have access to literally thousands of online journals, but we may hear about a student who has paid fees to obtain articles from a website. When I hear this, the phrase "try before you buy" goes through my head. By trying the UT Tyler website first and researching through our many subject resources, our community has direct access to resources for which the library has already paid.

Did you also know that if we don't have something you need we can usually get it for you thru Interlibrary Loan? In most instances we can get articles within twenty-four hours or less. And for faculty building online courses, there are often ways to directly link to specific articles within the library resources and thus

eliminate some of the copyright worries.

Please take time to thoroughly explore the wealth of resources available through the UT Tyler Library website. If you can, come to the library and meet with a librarian who can help you identify the best resources for your areas of study and assist you in navigating the wealth of choices, online and print, available to you.

And remember, now until November 15th, the Library Quality survey is open and available on our website, <http://library.uttyler.edu>. Please take 10-15 minutes and let us know how we're doing and how we can continue to meet your needs in the future.

How are we Doing?
Let us know
Take Our
 **LIBQUAL**
SURVEY
Win Prizes!

Robert R. Muntz Library Hours

Our regular hours are:

M-Th: 7:30am-Midnight
F: 7:30am-5:00pm
S: 9:00am-6:00pm
Su: 1:00pm-Midnight

Please visit the library website (<http://library.uttyler.edu/>) or the library blog, *The Patriot Spot* (<http://uttylerlibrary.wordpress.com>), for information on holiday and special hours.

Library Staff Welcomes Incoming Freshmen

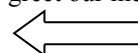
The Robert R. Muntz Library set up a tent and welcomed incoming freshmen during the first week of the fall semester. For four days, librarians and staff hosted an information tent where they provided free campus maps, directions

as needed, and cold bottled water. Librarians and staff also gave out free pens and the ubiquitous big orange highlighters (you can only get them during the welcome week). In addition, students could sign up for a variety of

gift baskets. This year our gift baskets included a laundry survival basket and a late night study survival package. We would like to thank all the students who stopped by our tent.



Sandra Pridgen, our Administrative Associate, and Venita Garrett, our Periodicals Supervisor, get ready to greet our incoming freshmen.



Tamara Brown, Library Assistant, Vandy Dubre, Instruction Librarian, and Matt Morrow, Library student worker, also get ready to greet our students.



Students sign up for some of our fabulous prizes at our Freshman Welcome Tent. We also had cold water for a hot summer's day and helped students find their classrooms.

Library Braces for Hurricane Ike

-Vandy Dubre, Instruction and Distance Education Librarian

What would three librarians do with duct tape, large rolls of plastic, and two pairs of scissors that would not involve a CSI team after the fact? We prepped for Hurricane Ike. Yes, the storm that had East Texas buying copious gallons of water, batteries, flashlights, and fighting over the last can of beanie weenies in Brookshire's also had the library battening down the hatches. We wrapped the outside facing

bookshelves with heavy duty plastic in the off chance a tree branch could strike through the window and throw water into the library. We also covered known areas of the library which are prone to leakage like the state docs and archives areas and unplugged all electrical appliances.

This is not new to libraries however. Most libraries have disaster preparedness plans and procedures in place for

just such an event. We have procedures for fires, bomb threat, and various forms of inclement weather to name a few.

The aftermath of Ike was not too bad. A few leak spots but nowhere near the books. So now the plastic and duct tape are gone and we are missing one good pair of scissors, but we are always ready for the hurricane season.



Did you know? Hurricane season in the Atlantic runs from June 1st to November 30. (www.accuweather.com)

Reference Q &A



We often get this question at the reference desk: "Do you have any textbooks?" The person asking is usually asking if we have textbooks for classes at UT Tyler. The basic answer is "no." The library does not purchase textbooks for the classes at UT Tyler. This is a common request, but there are some reasons why we are not able to purchase class textbooks.

First, a textbook collection would be very difficult to keep current. Each professor chooses their textbook for their particular class.

Even sections of the same class may have different textbooks based on professors choosing the book for their class. Given this, and the fact that textbook editions change practically every semester, it would be impossible for the library to maintain a current textbook collection.

Second, the library, just like the other units in the campus, operates on a very limited budget. Textbooks can be very expensive as students will attest. If the library chose to buy textbooks, it would mean our budget for other materials and services would decrease. We would not be as able to purchase other materials such as electronic books and online databases. This could mean we would be less able to help students with their research needs.

Third, even if we did purchase textbooks, their use would be very limited, and they would likely be placed on reserve. This would mean the books would be only available for use within the library. This would limit the value of the textbooks because the number of students able to use them would be limited.

However, I should add a caveat to the reasons above. At times, professors will put a copy of their class book on reserve. If that is the case, we will check for you and see if the book in question is available on reserve. If a book is on reserve, the loan period is determined by the instructor and can vary from 2 hours to 2 week checkout. Do check with your professor to see if he has placed an item on reserve. In addition, some professors might donate a copy of a textbook to the library. However, this happens rarely, and it must be noted that such donations are often not the latest edition of a class textbook.

We understand that textbooks are expensive. However, we are not in the position to purchase class textbooks. We can help you locate other information and materials that will help you succeed in your classes here at UT Tyler. So, we would like to remind students that when they need help researching a topic or finding resources for a class, they can stop by the reference desk. Students can also contact the library for reference assistance via the phone (903-566-7343) or via e-mail (library@uttyler.edu). We'll be happy to do what we can to help.

Halloween Trivia:

24.5 pounds was the per capita



consumption of candy by Americans in 2007.

—Source: Current Industrial Reports, Confectionery: 2007

<<http://www.census.gov/cir/www/311/ma311d.html>>



Library Special Hours for Thanksgiving

Wednesday November 26, 2008: 7:30am-5:00pm

Thursday November 27, 2008: CLOSED

Friday November 28, 2008: CLOSED

Library will re-open for regular hours on Saturday November 29, 2008.

Faculty Open House @ The Library

—Vandy Dubre, Instruction and Distance Education Librarian

On September 5th librarians greeted new faculty members for a library open house. This was a great way for new faculty to meet their library liaison, and see the library holdings, departments, and services. Faculty from the music to the math and science departments were present for this meet and greet. For the librarians, it was a chance to introduce the library to the faculty we work so closely with and put a live face with an email address. With so much work to be done on both sides it is nice to have a breather to meet a coworker face to face.



Our librarians met with faculty in LIB 202, then took faculty on a tour of the facilities. Librarians also took the time to demonstrate some of the great online resources we offer as well. Pictured librarians: Deirdre Joyce (top photo, middle), Eric Hartnett (middle photo, left), and Vandy Dubre (bottom photo, right).



Library Celebrates Banned Books Week with Annual Read Out

—Angel Rivera, Reference and Outreach Librarian

"If in other lands the press and books and literature of all kinds are censored, we must redouble our efforts here to keep them free."

—Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

The UT Tyler Robert R. Muntz Library celebrated the 6th Annual Banned Books Read Out on September 30th in the Library Reading Area. Library Director Jeanne Pyle opened the event with some remarks and a reading of the Banned Books Week Proclamation. Banned Books Week ran this year during the week of September 28 to October 4, 2008.

Observed since 1982, this annual event is celebrated during the last week of September. Nationally, Banned Books Week is sponsored by American Library Association (ALA), the American

Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, the Association of American Publishers, the American Society of Journalists and Authors, and the National Association of College Stores. Banned Books Week is also endorsed by the Center for the Book of the Library of Congress.

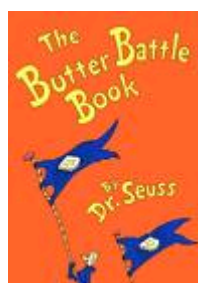
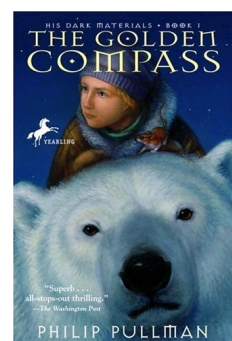
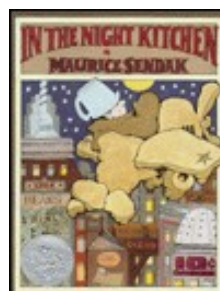
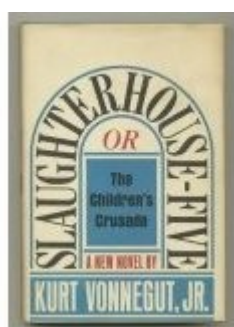
As part of the celebration, the Robert R. Muntz Library invited faculty, staff, students, and members of the academic community to sign up and read from their favorite banned or challenged books. This was a great way

for the community to come together and share readings as well as raise awareness about the dangers of restricting information and ideas in a free society.

In addition, the library also featured a display entitled: "Children, Young Adults, and Banned or Challenged Books." The display was based on titles featured in the ALA's "Top 100 Frequently Challenged Books of 1990-2000."

A sampling of titles from the Banned Books Read Out:

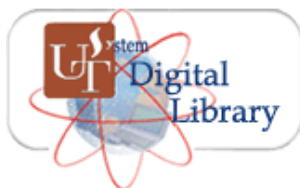
If interested, you can find these and other titles featured during our read out at your library:



Robert R. Muntz Library Joins UT System Ask-A-Librarian

—Angel Rivera, Reference and Outreach Librarian

If you have looked at the library's website recently, you will find a new link under the Ask-a-Librarian box. We are featuring a link to the UT System Ask-A-Librarian Service. By clicking on that link, or going directly to the service's link (<http://www.lib.utsystem.edu/students/ask.html>), you can get reference assistance online from a library staff throughout the UT System. For UT Tyler, this is another way for the library to provide research and reference assistance to students and the academic community by tapping into the knowledge and efforts of other UT System librarians.



Ask a UT System Librarian is a chat-based service that enables users to ask reference questions that will be answered by librarians located throughout the University of Texas System. The service runs during the following hours:

Monday - Thursday: 12pm - midnight
Friday: 12pm - 4pm
Sunday: 6 - midnight

The service is designed to an-

swer reference questions. Do note that because the service is staffed by members of various UT System campuses that the librarian assisting you may not be familiar with the specifics of your local University of Texas library. As a result, librarians may suggest and provide information for contacting your local library for library-specific, policy-oriented, or involved questions.

We are currently participating in the service on a trial basis. Please feel free to try it out and give the library some feedback. You can provide suggestions and responses via e-mail (library@uttyler.edu).

Thanksgiving Trivia:



The preliminary estimate of turkeys raised in the United States in 2008 is 271 million. That's not statistically significantly different from the number raised during 2007. The turkeys produced in 2007 together weighed 7.9 billion pounds and were valued at \$3.7 billion.

—Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (<http://www.nass.usda.gov/>)



The Patriot Spot (<http://uttylerlibrary.wordpress.com>) is the official blog of the UT Tyler Robert R. Muntz Library. It is one of the tools we use to stay in touch with our campus community and friends. Find news, announcements, and items of interest in our blog. Readers are welcome to post comments on the blog. We hope you will stop by *The Patriot Spot* and join us in creating new conversations.

Library Holds Extended Hours for Finals Week

The library continues the popular extended hours for finals week program. This fall, the extended hours will be:

Sunday December 14, 2008: 1:00pm-2:00am

Monday December 15, 2008: 7:30am-2:00am

Tuesday December 16, 2008: 7:30am-2:00am

Wednesday December 17, 2008: 7:30am-2:00am

Thursday December 18, 2008: 7:30am-2:00am

For details on other special and holiday hours, please make sure to visit the library website (<http://library.uttyler.edu/>) or the library blog, *The Patriot Spot* (<http://uttylerlibrary.wordpress.com>).

The Robert R. Muntz Library

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We are on the Web!
<http://library.uttyler.edu/>